Agenda Date: 1/17/07 Agenda Item: VA



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	<u>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</u>
OF GUARANTEE OF INDEBTEDNESS)	ORDER
)	DOCKET NO. TF06070515

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On June 13, 2006, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3+9 and N.J.S.A. 48:3-10, Vanco Direct USA, LLC ("Vanco Direct" or "Petitioner") filed an application with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting approval such that Petitioner, a company authorized to provide telecommunications service in this State, can guarantee the indebtedness (the "Debt") of Vanco plc (Parent company of Vanco Direct), and certain of its affiliates.

Vanco Direct is a Delaware limited liability company headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. Petitioner provides resold private line telecommunications services on a retail basis to business and carrier customers in the United States. Petitioner resells private line telecommunications services in this State pursuant to authority granted on or about July 19, 2005.

Petitioner requests Board approval for the proposed transaction whereby Barclays Bank PLC, The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc and Lloyds TSB Bank Plc will collectively make available to Vanco Direct, Vanco plc and certain of its affiliates, the sum of 92 million pounds Sterling (approximately \$180,000,000) which will be secured by the guarantee of Petitioner, a security interest in Petitioner's assets and a pledge of Petitioner's membership interests. Vanco Direct submits that this transaction will serve the public interest by enabling Vanco Direct to continue to provide telecommunications services at competitive rates in New Jersey, and therefore requests approval of this Petition. Vanco plc, and certain of its affiliates will serve as the primary obligors of the Debt while Vanco Direct will serve as a guarantor.

The Division of Rate Counsel has reviewed this matter and by letter dated January 5, 2007, recommends that the Board approve this Petition.

After review, the Board <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> that the proposed transactions are to be made in accordance with the law and <u>HEREBY AUTHORIZES</u> Vanco Direct USA, LLC to guarantee the indebtedness of Vanco plc, and certain of its affiliates.

This order is subject to the following provisions:

- 1 This Order shall not be construed as directly or indirectly fixing for any purpose whatsoever, any value of the tangible or intangible assets now owned or hereafter to be owned by Petitioner.
- 2. This Order shall not affect or in any way limit the exercise of the authority of this Board or of this State in any pending or future petition or in any proceeding with respect to rates, franchises, services, financings, accounting, capitalization, depreciation or in any other matters affecting Petitioner.
- 3. In the event of default under the Credit Agreement approved herein, Petitioner shall notify the Board within five days of such, which will give the Board the opportunity to determine if such default would cause inadequate, unsafe or improper service which could be in violation of N.J.S.A. 48:5A-36 and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-39.
- 4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Credit Agreement approved herein or the underlying documents making up the agreement, neither this proposed financing nor a default under the agreement or supporting documents constitutes an automatic transfer of Petitioner's property, plant or equipment, or Certificates of Approval under the terms of any security agreement or other document in conjunction with the credit facility. Board approval must be sought pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-19, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-40 and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-43.
- 5. Approval of the transactions herein shall not constitute a determination, nor in any way limit any future determination of the Board as to the treatment of indebtedness, capital structure and interest expense for ratemaking purposes, in any rate proceeding under state or federal law.

6. Any approval herein shall not be construed as automatically approving any past, present or future intercompany debt or advances that may requires Board approval pursuant to the applicable statutes.

DATED: 1/17/07

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

JEANNE M. FOX

FREDERICK F. BUTLER COMMISSIONER

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO COMMISSIONER

CHRISTINE V. BATOR COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities

SERVICE LIST

In the Matter of the Application of Vanco Direct USA, LLC for Approval of Guarantee of Indebtedness

Docket No. TF06070515

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